How to change rear strut mount on **BMW E46 convertible** – replacement guide

VIDEO TUTORIAL

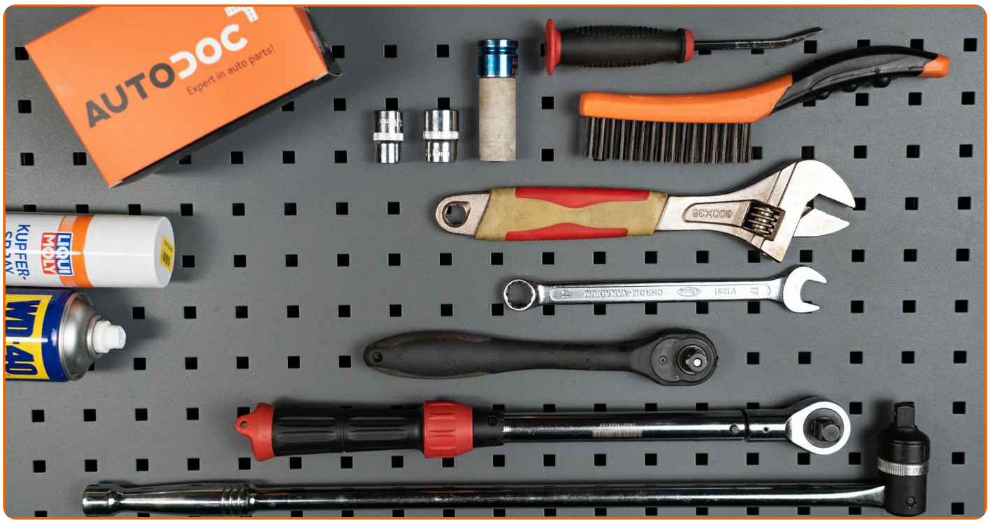


Important!

This replacement procedure can be used for:
BMW 3 Saloon (E30) 316 1.8 Ecotronic, BMW 3 Saloon (E30) 316i 1.6, BMW 3 Saloon (E30) 318i 1.8, BMW 3 Saloon (E30) 318is 1.8, BMW 3 Saloon (E30) 320i 2.0 (M20B20 (206KA)), BMW 3 Saloon (E30) 320i 2.0, BMW 3 Saloon (E30) M3 2.3, BMW 3 Saloon (E30) 323i 2.3, BMW 3 Saloon (E30) 325i 2.5, BMW 3 Saloon (E30) 325 e 2.7, BMW 3 Saloon (E30) 324d 2.4, BMW 3 Saloon (E30) 324td 2.4, BMW 3 Touring (E30) 318i 1.8, BMW 3 Touring (E30) 320i 2.0 (M20B20 (206KA)), BMW 3 Touring (E30) 325i 2.5, (+ 129)

The steps may slightly vary depending on the car design.

REPLACEMENT: STRUT MOUNT – BMW E46 CONVERTIBLE. LIST OF THE TOOLS YOU'LL NEED:



- Wire brush
- WD-40 spray
- Copper grease
- Combination spanner #17
- Drive socket # 13
- Drive socket # 18
- Wheel impact socket #17
- Ratchet wrench
- Torque wrench
- Adjustable wrench
- Tap wrench
- Crow bar
- Vice
- Hydraulic transmission jack
- Wheel chock

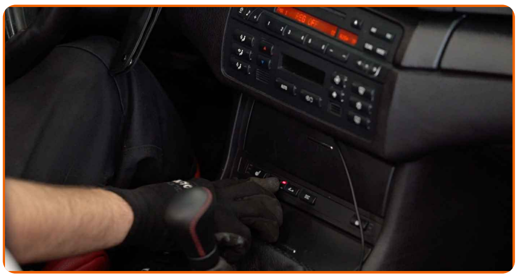
BUY TOOLS

Replacement: strut mount – BMW E46 convertible. AUTODOC experts recommend:

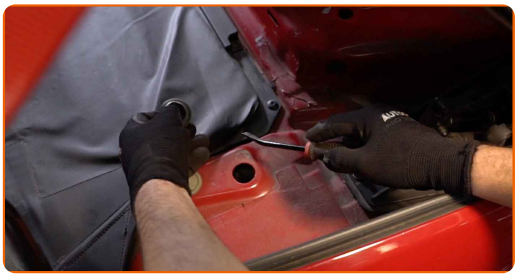
- The replacement procedure is identical for the mounts of the right and left shock absorbers of the rear suspension.
- Both mounts of the rear shock struts should be replaced simultaneously.
- All work should be done with the engine stopped.

CARRY OUT REPLACEMENT IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

1 Press and hold the folding roof control switch. Hold the button pressed until you get access to the upper fasteners of the shock absorber.



2 Remove the shock strut mount caps. Use a crowbar.



3 Clean the fasteners of the shock absorber upper mount. Use WD-40 spray.



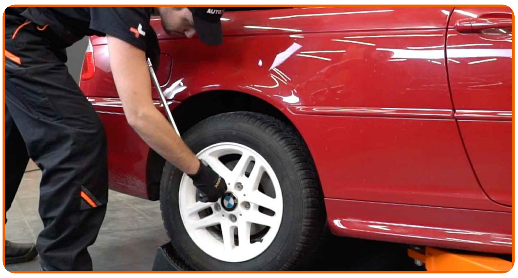
4 Loosen the upper fastener of the shock absorber. Use a drive socket #13. Use a ratchet wrench.



5 Secure the wheels with chocks.



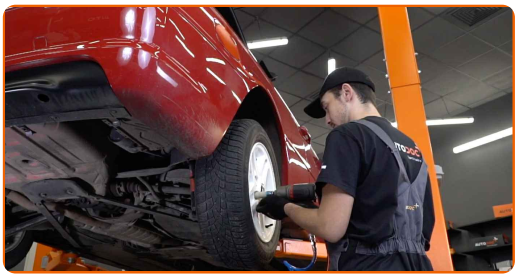
6 Loosen the wheel mounting bolts. Use wheel impact socket #17.



7 Raise the rear of the car and secure on supports.



8 Unscrew the wheel bolts.



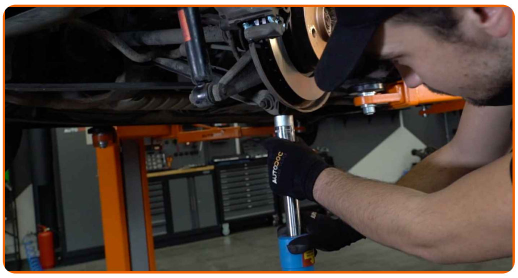
AUTODOC recommends:

- Warning! To avoid injury, hold the wheel while unscrewing the fastening bolts. BMW E46 convertible

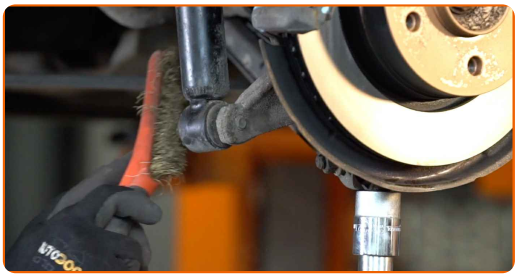
9 Remove the wheel.



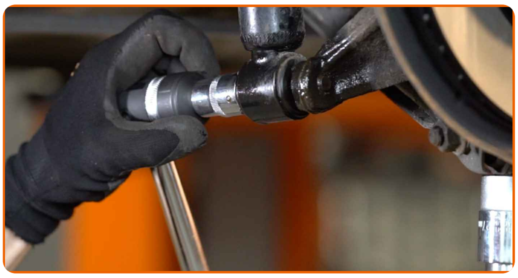
10 Support the arm. Use a hydraulic transmission jack.



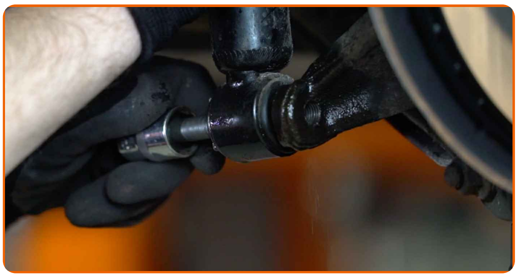
11 Clean the shock absorber fasteners. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



12 Unscrew the lower fastener of the shock absorber. Use a drive socket #18. Use a tap wrench.



13 Unscrew the upper fastener of the shock absorber. Use a drive socket #13. Use a ratchet wrench.



Replacement: strut mount – BMW E46 convertible. AUTODOC recommends:

- To avoid injuries, hold the shock absorber when undoing the fastening bolts.

14 Remove the fastening bolt.



15 Remove the shock absorber.



16 Grip the shock absorber in a vice.



17 Clean the shock absorber rod fastener. Use a wire brush.



18 Remove the shock absorber piston rod fastening. Use a combination spanner #17.



19 Release the vice and take out the shock absorber.



20 Remove the shock absorber mount, boot and bump stop.



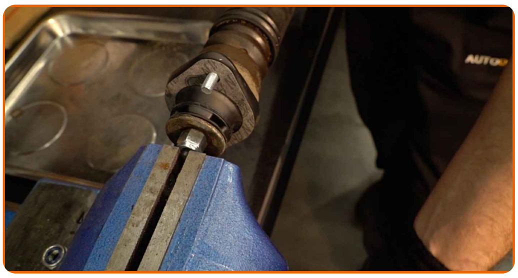
Replacement: strut mount – BMW E46 convertible. Tip from AUTODOC:

- Examine the shock absorber dust cap and the bump stop. Replace them if necessary.

21 Install the new mount, boot, and bump stop on the shock absorber.



22 Grip the shock absorber in a vice.



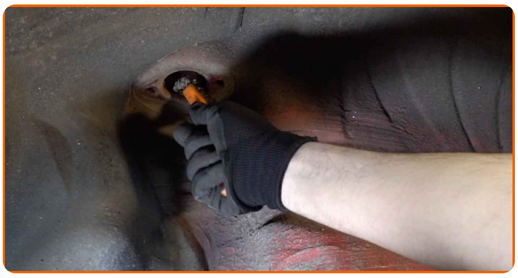
23 Screw the shock strut piston rod upper fastening. Use a combination spanner #17. Use an adjustable wrench. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 20 Nm torque.



24 Release the vice and take out the shock absorber.



25 Clean the shock absorber mounting seats. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



26 Place the shock absorber in the wheel arch and secure it.



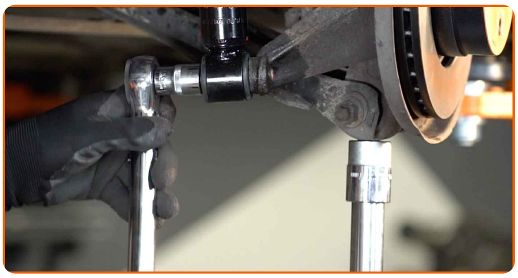
AUTODOC recommends:

- Important! Hold the shock absorber while screwing in the fastening bolts. BMW E46 convertible

27 Screw the upper fastener of the shock absorber. Use a drive socket #13.

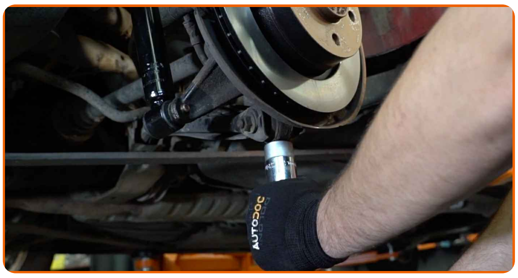


28 Tighten the lower fastener of the shock absorber. Use a drive socket #18. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 100 Nm torque.



29

Remove the support from under the arm.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: strut mount – BMW E46 convertible. Lower the transmission jack smoothly, without jerks, to avoid damaging components and mechanisms.

30

Clean the wheel rim mounting seat. Use a wire brush. Treat the contacting surface. Use copper grease.



31

Install the wheel.



Replacement: strut mount – BMW E46 convertible. Professionals recommend:

- To avoid injury, hold up the wheel when screwing in the fastening bolts.

32

Screw in the wheel bolts. Use wheel impact socket #17.



33

Tighten the top shock absorber fastening. Use a drive socket #13. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 28 Nm torque.



34

Install the shock strut mount caps.



35

Lower the car and working in a cross order, tighten the wheel bolts. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 120 Nm torque.



36

Remove the jacks and chocks.



WELL DONE!

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